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Urban District of Rothwell

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(A. L. TAYLOR, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

(T. WILSON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
A.M.I.P.C.)

1950

Rothwell Urban District Council.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

STATISTICAL MEMORANDA FOR 1950.

Area in Acres	10,695
Registrar General's Estimate of Population for 1950 ..	24,280
Number of Inhabited Houses 1950, according to Rate Book	7,254
Rateable Value, Year Commencing 1.4.50	£107,678
Net product of Penny Rate, Year Commencing 1.4.50	£417

VITAL STATISTICS IN 1950.

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births—			
Live Births—Legitimate	174	158	332
Illegitimate	1	10	11
Total ..	175	168	343
Still Births—			
Still Births—Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total ..	3	2	5
Birth Rate—			
Birth Rate (live and still) per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. ..	..	..	14.1
Deaths—			
All Ages	143	107	250
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. ..	..	..	10.3
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	10	2	12
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births .. ..	..	..	35.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	..	..	35.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	—	—

Maternal Mortality—

Deaths .. .. .	..	..	..	—
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births .. .. .	..	..	..	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..				1
Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	..	..	..	0.04
Rate per 1,000 live births .. .. .	..	..	..	2.9
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .. .. .	..	..	..	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .. .. .	..	..	..	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. .. .	..	..	..	27

RECORD OF DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS, 1950.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	10	2	12
1—5 years	5	—	5
5—10 years	2	2	4
10—15 years	—	—	—
15—20 years	—	1	1
20—25 years	1	—	1
25—35 years	8	—	8
35—45 years	4	4	8
45—55 years	12	5	17
55—65 years	24	17	41
65—70 years	23	13	36
70—75 years	17	13	30
75—80 years	17	21	38
80—85 years	13	15	28
85—90 years	6	10	16
90 years and over	1	4	5
TOTALS	143	107	250

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1950.

	Rothwell Urban District	Aggregate of Urban Districts	Aggregate of Rural Districts	West Riding Admini- strative County	England and Wales
Population	24,280	1,169,570	422,360	1,591,930	*
Births—Males	175	9,589	3,780	13,369	*
Females	168	8,960	3,569	12,529	*
Total	343	18,549	7,349	25,898	*
Deaths—Males	143	7,374	2,272	9,646	*
Females	107	7,181	1,964	9,145	*
Total	250	14,555	4,236	18,791	*
Deaths under 1 year					
Males	10	363	167	530	*
Females	2	253	121	374	*
Total	12	616	288	904	*
Stillbirths—Males ..	3	224	100	324	*
Females	2	236	69	305	*
Total	5	460	169	629	*
Total Live and Still- births	348	19,009	7,518	26,527	*

CRUDE RATES.

Birth	14.1	15.9	17.4	16.3	15.8
Death	10.3	12.4	10.0	11.8	11.6
Infective and Para. Dis., excl. Tub., but incl. Syphilis and other V.D.	0.8	0.10	0.11	0.10	*
T.B.—Respiratory ..	0.21	0.26	0.25	0.26	0.32
Other	0.08	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
All forms	0.29	0.30	0.29	0.30	0.36
Cancer	1.57	1.94	1.51	1.83	1.99
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	2.10	1.70	1.29	1.59	*
Heart and Circulatory	3.01	4.66	3.62	4.39	*
Respiratory Diseases	1.19	1.26	0.94	1.18	*
Maternal Mortality ..	—	0.95	1.06	0.98	0.86
Infant Mortality ..	35	33	39	35	30
Stillbirths	14	24	22	24	*

* Figures not available.

All the Maternal Mortality Rates quoted in this Schedule are per 1,000 Live and Still Births.



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Rothwell Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Rothwell Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1950. I am glad to say that this Report is in many ways one of the most satisfactory ever issued to this Authority. The Infantile Mortality Rate, considered to be the most sensitive index of the welfare and social circumstances of an area, is the lowest recorded for over twenty years, and the lowest but one ever recorded. The Death Rate is low and the mortality from Tuberculosis also shows an appreciable decrease.

On the debit side it is necessary to say that the housing position remains as unsatisfactory as ever. This, however, is due to causes outside the control of your Authority, and there is no reason for thinking that Rothwell is in any way lagging behind in its efforts to improve the housing circumstances of its inhabitants.

In the sphere of Infectious Disease the incidence was once again very low, and no epidemic of importance occurred. Diphtheria was, once again, completely absent.

Matters concerning Cleansing, Salvage and Meat and Food Inspection are dealt with in the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector. Again, I must thank Mr. Wilson for the efficient and co-operative way in which he has carried out his many duties.

My acknowledgments are also due to the Chairman and Members of the Rothwell Urban District Council and of the Health Committee. Individually and collectively members are always

ready to listen to any suggestions I may make and to do their best to put into operation any scheme for improvement which I can convince them is needed.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A. L. TAYLOR.

Medical Officer of Health.

COMMENTS ON STATISTICAL DATA.

In common with the rest of the country there is a fall in the Birth Rate which, this year, stands at the low figure of 14.1 per thousand. In recording this it is only fair to point out that many young people are deliberately restricting their families because of housing difficulties. Unfortunately for the community, it is usually the more responsible section of the community which exercises this restraint. One of the tragedies of the present housing situation is that unless people are living in abominably overcrowded or insanitary conditions, their chances of being allocated a Council house are negligible. At the present rate of provision, many years must necessarily elapse after marriage before a house can reasonably be expected. This factor inevitably reflects on the Birth Rate and however much one may deplore its effect on the community as a whole, one must admire and respect the individuals concerned, who frequently place their own happiness and that of their children, present and prospective, in the forefront of their concern.

The Infantile Mortality Rate, at 35 per thousand live and still births, can be considered reasonably satisfactory, although prematurity still takes its toll in predisposing to loss of infant life. Every effort is made to ensure that premature babies are given the best possible chance of survival. A special cot is available and is freely used, and a specially trained domiciliary midwife gives advice and help in all cases. The premature infant is very much at the mercy of his environment during the first few months of his life and infections, particularly gastro-enteritis and broncho-pneumonia, assume a very much more serious significance in these cases. The causes of prematurity are relatively little understood, but investigations and research are constantly proceeding.

The Death Rate stands at 10.3 and compares favourably both with previous years and with the rest of the County. The only important cause of death in the 15—45 age group is still Tuberculosis, although it is gratifying to be able to point out that the death rate from all forms of Tuberculosis fell to nearly half last year's level.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE ROTHWELL URBAN DISTRICT, 1950.

Cause of Death	M.	F.	Cause of Death	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	143	107	28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	3
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	5	—	29. Hyperlasia of prostate ..	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other ..	1	1	30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease ..	—	—	31. Congenital malformations	2	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	12	19
5. Whooping Cough ..	—	—	33. Motor vehicle accidents ..	1	—
6. Meningococcal infections ..	1	—	34. All other accidents ..	4	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	1	35. Suicide	2	—
8. Measles	—	—	36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	—	—			
10. Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	5	3	Live Births :—		
11. Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus ..	4	1	Total	175	168
12. Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	—	3	Legitimate	174	158
13. Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	—	1	Illegitimate	1	10
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	7			
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	Still Births :—		
16. Diabetes	—	1	Total	3	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	27	24	Legitimate	3	2
18. Coronary disease, angina ..	13	4	Illegitimate	—	—
19. Hypertension, with heart disease ..	6	4			
20. Other heart disease ..	16	21	Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—		
21. Other circulatory disease ..	7	2	Total	10	2
22. Influenza	1	—	Legitimate	10	2
23. Pneumonia	10	6	Illegitimate	—	—
24. Bronchitis	5	4			
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	3	—			
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	Population .. 24,280		
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	3	1	Comparability Factors—		
			Births .. 1.01		
			Deaths .. 1.04		

INFANTILE MORTALITY IN 1950.

Net deaths from Stated Causes under One year of age.

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 wks.	2-3 wks.	3-4 wks.	Total under one month	1-3 mths.	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	Total under one year
Prematurity	3	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4
Inanition Prematurity ..	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Atelectasis Prematurity ..	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Acute Gastro-Enteritis ..	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Asphyxia caused by lying face downward in his cot	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Broncho-pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Prematurity and Maternal ante-partum haemorrhage	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	6	1	1	0	8	2	0	1	1	12

INFANT DEATHS PER THOUSAND LIVE BIRTHS.

1903-1912		1913-1922		1923-1932		1933-1942		1943-1950	
1903	171	1913	139	1923	82	1933	77.8	1943	42.2
1904	145	1914	120	1924	112	1934	50	1944	40
1905	161	1915	125	1925	72	1935	38	1945	51.7
1906	121	1916	85	1926	74.2	1936	57	1946	56
1907	140	1917	142	1927	65	1937	68	1947	49.6
1908	148	1918	84	1928	71.7	1938	65	1948	38.8
1909	112	1919	61	1929	89.3	1939	42.4	1949	52.7
1910	133	1920	83	1930	31	1940	43	1950	35
1911	116	1921	86	1931	72.2	1941	50.8		
1912	58	1922	90	1932	40.9	1942	37.2		
Average— 130.5		Average— 101.5		Average— 71		Average— 52.9		Average— 45.7	

Details of STILL-BIRTHS for the past Five years.

Year	No. of Live Births	No. of Still- births	Proportion of Still- births per 100 Live Births
1946	411	12	2.9
1947	484	19	3.9
1948	438	12	2.7
1949	398	14	3.5
1950	343	5	1.5

Details of NEO-NATAL DEATHS for the past Five years.

Year	No. of Live Births	No. of Neo- Natal Deaths	Proportion of Neo-Natal Deaths per 100 Live Births
1946	411	16	3.9
1947	484	16	3.3
1948	438	10	2.3
1949	398	15	3.8
1950	343	8	2.4

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :— Dr. A. L. Taylor, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :— T. Wilson, Cert. S.I.B., A.R. San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.P.C., Certified Meat Inspector, Certified Smoke Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :— G. F. Idle, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Certified Meat Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :— J. Goulden, Cert. S.I.B. (*Appointed 1st September, 1950*).

Clerk :— Miss H. Flockton.

For the provision of the Part III Health Services in the area, the West Riding County Council, who are the Local Health Authority, are, of course, responsible. Under the scheme of Divisional administration of the Preventive Medical Service, Rothwell, together with two adjoining Urban Districts, is constituted into a single Division with a population of approximately 54,000. The Medical Officer of Health of Rothwell is also Divisional Medical Officer and School Medical Officer for the Local Health Authority, and is responsible for the day to day administration of all the County services throughout the district and Division. This arrangement, which has been in operation for four years, proves very effective in practice. An additional advantage is that the Divisional Medical Officer in his capacity as Medical Officer of Health, has ready access to all branches of local activity and is himself well known to, and in frequent contact with, the Chairman and Members of the District Council and with the Clerk and staff at the Civic Buildings. Immediate action is possible on many matters relating to local health and welfare. There is a suggestion that in the near future public health functions may be further delegated to the District Council. However admirable this may be in theory, I am bound to record my view that unless it is accompanied by financial discretion and by the power of appointment and dismissal of staff, most of the advantages accruing from such a scheme will be lost.

The following Services are administered in the area :—

Health Visiting. This important service is still suffering from shortage of staff although, during the year, one or two new workers have been recruited. The scope of the Health Visitor's work has been expanded by recent legislation and she is winning increasing recognition as being one of the most important of the medico-social team. It is now possible, I think, to expect that all the Health Visitor's duties, old and new, will be undertaken by a staff numerically adequate and who, individually, have always displayed efficiency and zeal in carrying out their most responsible duties. The Health Visitor must essentially be a person of the highest character and integrity. Much of her work is educative and advisory, and it is only by winning the confidence and affection of the families she visits that she can carry out fully the functions and purposes for which she is appointed.

Tuberculosis Visiting. Tuberculosis visiting is, at the moment, not being completely covered. This is due to the fact that the former Health Visitor working in the Tuberculosis service unfortunately died and it has not been possible to replace her. The most that can be done with existing staff is the following up of contacts and the carrying out of Patch testing at the request of the Chest Physician who attends the Chest Clinic at Rothwell. Only an expansion of the Health Visiting staff can bring about any improvement, and I hope very much that this will be possible during next year.

School Nursing. School Nursing throughout the year in the Rothwell area has been carried out by one State Registered School Nurse who, however, has not got her Health Visitor's Certificate. This provision was made necessary by the acute shortage of Health Visitors. The work has been carried out efficiently and well, but one feels that it would be better to bring the Service into line with modern trends and to arrange that the care of the child from birth to school-leaving age should be the duty of the Health Visitor. Only in this way can continuity of interest be maintained and duplication and overlapping be avoided.

Home Nursing. The activities of the Home Nurses, four of whom (with a relief who operates throughout the Division), cover the work of the District, have constantly expanded throughout the year. This expansion is a reflection of the increasing shortage of Hospital accommodation for chronic sick and of institutional accommodation for aged and infirm persons. The service has functioned smoothly and the Nurses have given most valuable help and have been most co-operative with the central administration in pointing out the needs of their patients and suggesting ways

in which many unfortunates, often living in great misery and difficulty, can be helped. It seems inevitable that under present circumstances, particularly with a population which is tending to age and in which chronic illness must increasingly be expected, the Home Nursing Service must increase in importance and must be expected to undertake an increasing volume of work.

Midwifery Service. One midwife resigned during the year to take up other nursing duties. She was not replaced and the district is now covered by three midwives and one relief, who again operates throughout the Division. One effect of the continued demand for institutional accommodation has been that the domiciliary midwifery service is now tending to be under-employed. Approximately 50 per cent. of all births are taking place in Maternity Homes or Hospitals. In addition, there has been, since the passing of the National Health Service Act, an increasing tendency for the family doctor to accept responsibility for the domiciliary confinement of those of his patients who elect to have their babies at home. This factor again detracts to some extent from the responsibility and interest of the midwife's work. I feel that many cases accommodated in institutions could quite conveniently and properly have had their babies at home. At the same time, it is fair to say that the financial and domestic burdens involved are greater in the case of home confinements. A recent recognition of this has become apparent and a more exacting scrutiny has been suggested in considering the factors relating to mothers seeking institutional admission.

Home Help Service. As is, of course, essential, a county-wide standard of establishment for Home Helps has been laid down. At present the authorisation in this Division is to employ Home Helps equivalent to sixteen whole-time workers. It has been possible to recruit a sufficient number of suitable helpers, although Rothwell still, for some unexplained reason, lags behind the rest of the Division. This service tends to be abused more than any other and very great vigilance has from time to time been proved necessary in assuring that Helps are not being asked for on insufficient need. An improvement has been noticeable lately and I would like to acknowledge the ready co-operation of the general practitioners in the area, who frequently give confidential information which enables the Divisional Medical Officer to ascertain the real needs of the patient. With a limited number of Helps, any frivolous call for their services must inevitably mean that someone in real need is deprived of help. This is a situation which must be avoided at all costs.

Vaccination and Immunisation. Immunisation against Diphtheria has been carried out throughout the year at all the Welfare Clinics. The level of immunised children is maintained

satisfactorily and is high. The continued absence of Diphtheria from the district is welcome proof that immunisation carried out through the years has brought its hoped-for reward.

The position with regard to vaccination against Smallpox is less satisfactory. At present not more than about 15 per cent. of the total child population are being vaccinated. Parents are frequently heard to make statements such as follows: "If vaccination is considered necessary it will be made compulsory like it was before." There is widespread feeling that the danger of Smallpox is now completely gone for ever, and that vaccinating a baby inflicts on it an unnecessary discomfort, and even, in parents' opinion, a risk. I should like to take this opportunity of emphasising that primary vaccination of a young child, with the materials and methods now in use, is a painless operation carrying not the slightest risk to the child and leaving no disfiguring scar. Should Smallpox be introduced into the country, as happens from time to time, the enormous demand for vaccination proves that the majority of people think it is an effective protection. Vaccination carried out under "mass" conditions is inevitably less meticulously done than the more leisurely procedure adopted at routine sessions. I would urge that babies are vaccinated as soon as possible during the first year of life.

CLINIC PROVISION.

Child Welfare Clinics are held weekly at Rothwell, Lofthouse and Methley, and fortnightly at Oulton. I have been trying for some time to arrange a Child Welfare Clinic at Thorpe. This is becoming increasingly necessary owing to new Council house building and to the great difficulty experienced by mothers in taking their children from Thorpe either to the Lofthouse or Rothwell Clinics. Premises which seemed suitable were found, but unfortunately the County Valuer has not yet agreed with the Trustees as to the annual rental. The deadlock has not been resolved at the time of writing. This is a matter of considerable disappointment, as there is not the slightest doubt that clinic provision at Thorpe is now an urgent necessity. At Stourton too, it has not been found possible to arrange for alternative accommodation following the closing of the extremely unsatisfactory clinic early in the year. Several alternatives were considered and great efforts were made to obtain suitable premises, but again no success can be reported. In the case of both Thorpe and Stourton, the matter is being pursued and will not be allowed to be forgotten. Clinic attendance throughout the district has been well maintained throughout the year.

Ante-Natal Clinics are held twice weekly at Rothwell and fortnightly at Methley. The fall in attendance experienced throughout the county, following the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, has been checked. At the same time, the numbers now in attendance are considerably lower than those previously recorded. This cannot be regarded with indifference. A very large part of the value of ante-natal clinic work is the education and general instruction given to expectant mothers. One wonders if similar teaching is obtained under the new dispensation. If so, all may be well, but if not, a great deal of the value of the Ante-Natal Services, so carefully built up over many years, will have been lost.

The Ultra Violet Light Clinic is still held three times a week and is as well attended as formerly. Great benefit is derived by certain types of children and evidence is constantly forthcoming as to the great value of the treatment. This is further evidenced by the readiness of mothers to bring their children along when this is suggested.

CONSULTANT CLINICS.

A Consultant Paediatric Clinic is held once a month, and any case of doubt or difficulty encountered in the Welfare Clinics, or during School Medical Inspection, is referred to the Consultant. This Clinic is now attended by Dr. J. D. Pickup, who has taken up a permanent appointment as Consultant Paediatrician in the Wakefield—Pontefract areas. His work is much appreciated, not only by the staff of the Public Health Department, but also by the general practitioners practising in the area. A pleasing feature of this expanding service is the readiness with which practitioners now refer cases of difficulty arising in their own practice.

Ophthalmic Clinics are held twice a month and are staffed by Dr. Wittels, who is an Ophthalmologist on the staff of the Regional Hospital Board. Provision of glasses is now almost up to date and very little delay occurs. This is a valuable service and is much appreciated.

The Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic has not yet been re-started. Negotiations have been long and difficult. Very recent news, however, holds out hope that in the very near future some provision is likely to be made and I hope that in my next Annual Report I shall be able to tell you that the Service is once more working smoothly.

During the year an Orthopaedic Clinic has been opened at the Central Clinic, Rothwell. An orthopaedic Nurse attends weekly and undertakes the instruction of children needing remedial

exercises of various types. Parents attend with their children and are taught the exercises the child should perform. Cases of difficulty are referred to a Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and I hope, during next year, to establish regular Consultant Clinics in conjunction with one or two adjoining districts.

A Speech Therapist attends one whole day weekly to give training in speech to all cases referred from Assistant County Medical Officers or School Head Teachers within the Division. The work is up to date and is giving valuable results in favourable types of case.

HOSPITAL PROVISION.

Very few cases of Infectious Disease now need admission to Hospital. At the discretion of the family doctor, however, cases are admitted to Seacroft Hospital. The standard of treatment and care given in this modern and well-equipped Hospital is very high indeed. It is gratifying to acknowledge the ready co-operation and free exchange of information which takes place between the Health Department and the Hospital staffs.

General Hospitals. Acute medical and surgical cases are admitted from Rothwell Urban District to Hospitals in the Leeds and Wakefield areas. It is, unfortunately, not possible to report any improvement in the provision of beds for chronic sick. An additional difficulty is the vagueness of the dividing line between what are known as chronic sick and those designated as aged and infirm. This problem will have to be tackled as an increasing number of the population is now living to an age when chronic ill-health must be expected. Meantime, many cases are being nursed at home, often under unsuitable conditions. The matter is very much in the minds of all concerned and I know that every effort is being made to effect an improvement. I should like to take this opportunity of acknowledging the ready co-operation given by the Welfare Department. Every approach is met in a spirit of friendliness and good will, and many needy cases have been found institutional accommodation through the good offices of the Welfare Officer.

DAY NURSERY.

The Day Nursery at Stourton has been renovated during the year and accommodates 40 children. There is a long waiting list which is constantly growing. Efforts are being made to ensure that the most needy cases are given priority admission. The Nursery, with an efficient Matron and staff, provides valuable help

to mothers who are compelled to work, or whose social circumstances demand that their children shall be cared for for shorter or longer periods of time. The health and nutritional standards of the children in Nursery attendance are of an extremely high order. No outbreaks of epidemic disease were experienced during the year and the relationship between staff and parents has been of the happiest.

Ambulance Service. The difficulties originally associated with the new Ambulance Service have largely been dissipated. It is still, however, true to say that people are considerably more insistent on the need for ambulance provision than was formerly the case. It is difficult to believe that the real need has increased in proportion to the demand. The total mileage run by the Ambulance Service is now many times greater than was the case when the service was run by the Urban District. It is desirable that people should remember that this Service, although free to the individual, is a very expensive one to the community. I would like to point out once again that whereas the Ambulance Service cost $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate when it was run by the Urban District to the complete satisfaction of everyone, it now costs more than a 6d. rate, that is a twelve times greater cost. On the credit side, it can be said that the vehicles are modern and well kept, and that the service functions with efficiency, punctuality and courtesy. The Chief Ambulance Officer and his Divisional Officer are co-operative and helpful, and any matter of difficulty is quickly tackled and ironed out.

Laboratory Facilities. The Medical Research Laboratory at Wakefield still undertakes any necessary bacteriological investigations. A very close liaison exists between the Health Department and the Laboratory. Once again, I should like to acknowledge to the Director and Staff their unfailing assistance and kindness throughout the year.

Milk Samples. Under the Food and Drugs Act milk samples are submitted to the County Analyst at Bradford, as are also samples of water and of foodstuffs.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Once again I am glad to report that the incidence of Infectious Disease has been conspicuously low throughout the year. Diphtheria now no longer exists as an epidemic disease and no positive case was reported. Immunisation was, as usual, carried out as a routine measure in all Clinics. The percentage of children

immunised has tended to fall slightly, no doubt a reflection of the feeling of safety engendered in the minds of parents by the continued absence of clinical cases of the disease. I should like to take this opportunity of pointing out that the absence of clinical diphtheria by no means indicates that the germ is not present in the throats of a large number of the population from time to time, and to urge that immunisation of all children should be carried out as a routine procedure. Only by constant vigilance is it possible to ensure that Diphtheria does not again become a factor causing severe invalidism and even mortality amongst unprotected, susceptible children.

Vaccination. It is still an unfortunate fact that the percentage of children vaccinated is a very small proportion of the total. I estimate that during the year not more than about 15 per cent. of children under one year were vaccinated. Encouragement is given to all parents attending Welfare Clinics to bring their children to the regularly held vaccination clinics. I would again urge as much publicity as possible in ensuring protection for as many infants as are presented for treatment

Scarlet Fever remains mild in type and low in incidence. Most cases are now nursed at home, but may be admitted to Hospital at the discretion of the family doctor. Disinfection of the house is now no longer carried out as a routine, but will, at any time, be undertaken at the request of the householder. It is now thought that thorough airing and "spring cleaning" of the house with soap and water are a very much more effective method of ensuring freedom from any residual germs.

Whooping Cough. Considerable pressure has been brought to bear on the Ministry to try to persuade them to allow Whooping Cough vaccination to be made available to the general public. The view is still officially held that the vaccines on trial are not yet of sufficient reliability to justify mass immunisation. This view is by no means generally held amongst the rank and file of public health workers. They point out that a patient may ask the family doctor for inoculation against Whooping Cough, and that this will then be carried out under the General Practitioner branch of the National Health Service. The anomaly is thus created that whilst those on whom falls the main burden of preventive medicine are prevented from using a weapon which they think has a very considerable potency, even at this stage, protection can be made available through a curative branch of medicine. A move is now on foot for the Local Health Authority to buy at its own expense a supply of suitable material which can be given in the Clinics. I hope in my next Report to be able to tell of a successful outcome of the present negotiations.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis. Four cases of this serious disease occurred during the year, one of which proved fatal. Once again it was not possible to identify the source of infection which arose, so far as could be ascertained, from no known contact with another case. The cases were widely scattered throughout the district.

Measles. Measles had a moderate prevalence in 1950, not amounting to an epidemic. No death occurred from the disease, although one serious complication, known as Measles Encephalitis, occurred. The child recovered but with some mental impairment.

Pneumonia. Pneumonia remains low in incidence and of the 28 cases, 14 occurred in elderly people over the age of 65 years.

Food Poisoning. No case of food poisoning was notified in the district during 1950.

Tuberculosis. Whilst the position relating to this disease is still far from satisfactory, it is gratifying to be able to record a considerable fall in the number of deaths compared with 1949. Thus, in 1950, 5 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary deaths occurred, compared with a total of 13 deaths in both groups during 1949. The number of new cases notified remained approximately the same, *i.e.*, 27 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary. Sanatorium admission is still difficult for a large number of cases, due to the continued shortage of nursing staff. Every effort is made by the Housing Committee to give consideration to cases of infectious disease which must be treated at home and which cannot be ensured at least one separate bedroom. I must repeat my remarks of last year that this will only touch the fringe of the problem.

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease, and the main, indeed the only, mode of spread is by infectious material discharged from the mouths of sufferers from the disease. Even the provision of better housing accommodation by no means ensures that the patient will make no contact with the rest of the family. Indeed, it is asking too much of human nature to expect that sufferers from this long-continued illness will conduct themselves in relation to their families and friends as if they were outcasts from society or unclean.

B.C.G. Vaccination has been used in approved cases. The procedure used is still elaborate and still necessitates 12 weeks segregation from the parent and family. There is still some controversy as to the effectiveness of the protection thus afforded. The wide use of B.C.G. Vaccination in Scandinavian countries, and the continued enthusiasm displayed for it, leads one to hope

that its use in this country may ultimately prove a very considerable boon. In the treatment of Tuberculosis several powerful new drugs are in regular use and successful results have been reported in many cases. The former Tuberculosis Officers now working on the staff of the Regional Hospital Board and re-designated "Chest Physician" are co-operative and forthcoming in their contacts with the Preventive Medical Service. A very friendly spirit prevails and information is fully and freely communicated on both sides ; only thus is it possible to derive the maximum benefit from the relatively limited facilities at present available.

Venereal Diseases. So far as can be ascertained, the incidence of Venereal Diseases in this area is negligible. No case has come to light during the year as a result of the routine blood examinations carried out at the Ante-Natal Clinics.

Enteric. No case of disease in the Enteric group was recorded.

Infestations. Four cases of Scabies came to the notice of the Health Department during 1950.

Pediculosis was again slight in incidence and occurred mainly among the "Problem Family" type of children. These unfortunates were given special attention and where necessary cleansed by the School Nurse, using Lethane Oil. Experience has taught where infestation can be expected, and these families are given particularly careful follow-up supervision.

TUBERCULOSIS.

RECORD OF CASES DURING 1950.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
No. of cases on Register at beginning of year	62	47	21	20
No. of cases notified for first time during year	14	12	—	3
No. of cases added to Register otherwise than by notification	—	1	—	—
No. removed to other districts.. ..	4	2	—	1
No. cured.. .. .	—	—	—	1
No. died from disease	5	—	—	1
No. died from other causes	—	—	—	—
No. of cases on Register at end of year	67	58	21	20

TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1950.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5 years.. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	1*	0
5—10 years ..	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
10—15 years ..	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
15—20 years ..	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
20—25 years ..	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
25—35 years ..	4	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
35—45 years ..	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45—55 years ..	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
55—65 years ..	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Over 65 years ..	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Totals ..	14	13	0	3	5	0	1*	1

* One death from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Male) was an unnotified case.

TUBERCULOSIS (New Cases) Since 1931.

Year	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1931	20	4	12	1
1932	13	0	13	1
1933	19	8	8	1
1934	13	7	4	0
1935	11	6	6	0
1936	9	1	7	2
1937	13	11	9	0
1938	18	17	12	5
1939	24	11	10	4
1940	19	3	11	1
1941	22	12	10	2
1942	23	4	11	4
1943	24	7	9	0
1944	21	10	12	2
1945	21	5	11	1
1946	28	9	7	3
1947	16	5	8	0
1948	22	3	11	2
1949	25	2	11	2
1950	27	3	5	2

CASES OF NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS).

Disease	Under 1 yr.		1—3 yrs.		3—5 yrs.		5—10 yrs.		10—15 yrs.		15—25 yrs.		25—45 yrs.		45—65 yrs.		Over 65 yrs.		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	2	2	6	5	2	4	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	11	15
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	1	2	4	0	5	0	10	4	18	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
Measles Encephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	4	6	1	3	9	11
Whooping Cough	3	4	16	29	15	32	19	28	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	55	95
Measles	3	5	16	29	13	34	21	29	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	55	99
Dysentery	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
TOTALS.. ..	7	9	36	60	36	73	45	64	6	5	3	3	7	2	9	8	11	7	154	231

STATEMENT OF NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES RECEIVED DURING
THE YEAR 1950, AND CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained	Scarlet Fever	26
	Whooping Cough	150
	Diphtheria	—
	Measles (excluding Rubella)	153
	Acute Pneumonia	28
	Meningococcal Infection	2
	Acute Poliomyelitis	4
	Acute Encephalitis	1
	Dysentery	1
	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
	Puerperal Pyrexia	—
	Smallpox	—
	Paratyphoid Fevers	—
	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—
	Food Poisoning, excluding Dysentery	—
	Erysipelas	20
	Dysentery	1
Cases removed to Hospital	Smallpox	—
	Scarlet Fever	7
	Diphtheria	—
	Enteric Fever	—
	Acute Poliomyelitis	4
	Acute Polioencephalitis	1
	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2

HOUSING.

The housing position remains unsatisfactory. New construction lags sadly behind increasing needs. Overcrowding exists throughout the area, due to the large numbers of young people who have married and taken up residence with their parents and in-laws. No overcrowding survey was undertaken, nor would this have served any useful purpose owing to the complete impossibility of undertaking any measures of amelioration. During the year, 9 individual unfit houses were represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act. This by no means exhausts the list of those which would, under normal circumstances, have been dealt with. Very many houses are in a state of advanced dilapidation and very many which would normally be dealt with under Clearance Areas must perforce be left occupied for the time being. The Housing Committee are very well aware of the extreme need and their task in assessing the relative claims of different sections of the population is heartbreaking. A priority list exists and is used as sparingly as possible. I am glad to acknowledge the readiness with which the Housing Committee listen to any special representations which I may find it necessary to make. The "points" system in use is rigidly applied and is, in my view, the fairest method which can be devised. Every house let means that very many citizens are disappointed. Everyone feels that his own case is more urgent and needy than anybody else's. It is only by taking the widest view of the needs of the district as a whole that it is possible to dole out with some semblance of justice the pitifully inadequate number of dwellings which is allocated to the Urban District. These conditions are, of course, national, and are well recognised by the Ministry and the Government.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	827
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,985
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1942	147
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	397
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9

4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation *Nil*

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 122

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repair 31

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 20

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 2

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 87

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 63

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 2

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling houses unfit for habitation 9

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 9

(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 2

(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners :—

(a) To render houses fit for human habitation *Nil*

(b) As to usage other than for human habitation *Nil*

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	<i>Nil</i>
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms closed in pursuance of Closing Orders	<i>Nil</i>
(3) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	<i>Nil</i>

4. Number of new houses erected during 1950 :—

(a) By Local Authority	32
(b) By Private Enterprise	14

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. The water supply continues extremely satisfactory. Water is obtained as follows :—

Leeds Corporation	256,944,000 gallons
Morley Corporation	29,700,000 „
Wakefield Corporation	32,262,000 „
	<hr/>
	318,906,000 „
	<hr/>

and is of exceptionally good quality. Of this quantity, 149,818,000 gallons were used for trade purpose, and the balance of 169,088,000 gallons was accounted for by domestic purposes and leakage respectively.

The average daily consumption per head for domestic purposes was 18.7 gallons, and for trade purposes 16.8 gallons.

Regular bacteriological examinations and chemical analyses were made throughout the year. Samples were taken in all parts of the district. The water is without Plumbo-Solvent action.

Three stand-pipes are still in use, but no wells are now in use in the district. The following chemical and bacteriological reports are typical of those taken throughout the year :—

Chemical Analysis—

	Parts per million			
Total Solids				80
Chloride				14
Nitrite				<i>Nil</i>
Nitrate				0.35
Free Ammonia				0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia				0.01
Poisonous Metals				<i>Nil</i>
Total Hardness				48
pH				7

This water is of good organic quality.

Bacteriological Test—

Number of organisms per 1 cc. after 3 days at 20—22 degs. C.	70
Number of organisms per 1cc. after 2 days at 37 degs. C.	4
Bacillus Coli Aerogenes—No. per 100 ccs.	Less than 1

This is a class 1 water.

Sewers. The main sewer through the Rothwell Park is now well on the way to replacement by a new and modern construction. Many difficulties have been encountered and the expense is likely to prove very much greater than was originally envisaged. Mining subsidence has caused considerable complications, but in spite of all drawbacks the work has proceeded with reasonable speed. The completion of this sewer will remove the greatest of the difficulties in the field of hygiene. Unfortunately, mining subsidence in the Methley area has caused very considerable damage and nuisance to arise in relation to the main Methley sewer. A somewhat extensive scheme will have to be undertaken in the near future. Levels are now being taken and estimations of cost arrived at with a view to early action.

All the sewage works in the area, again with the exception of the Methley one, have been entirely satisfactory. There is no doubt that it will ultimately prove necessary to embark on a scheme for pumping the Methley sewage to the modern works at Lemon-royd. These works are quite capable of taking a greatly increased flow and were, indeed, designed originally with such an end in view.

Rivers and Streams. No action necessary during the year.

Closet Accommodation. Public Cleansing. These matters are dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Shops and Offices. Routine inspection has been carried out during the year, but no statutory action has been found necessary.

Camping Sites. See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Swimming Baths and Pools. No public baths in this area.

Bed Bug Disinfestation. Routine disinfestation is carried out in relation to all occupants of new Council houses where necessary. Satisfactory results are obtained from the use of Gammexane and D.D.T.

Factories and Workshops. Parts 1 and 8 of the Act fall within the scope of administration of this Authority. Appended is a list of Outworkers and it will be noted that no special action has been necessary throughout the year. Routine inspections have been carried out in respect of Part 1 of the Act, and again no special action has been necessary.

INSPECTION FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH (INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		In-spections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	1	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	85	22	2	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises)	2	1	—	—
TOTAL	99	24	2	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases.)

	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
Insufficient	2	1	—	2	—
Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ..	6	6	—	6	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	8	7	—	8	—

OUTWORK.

Nature of Work	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1)	Section 110		Section 111		
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel—						
Making, etc. ..	13	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and						
Washing ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Textile Weaving	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	13	—	—	—	—	—

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

Infectious Disease Prevention.

Inspections	21
Further enquiries	0
Disinfections	7
Schools Disinfected	0
Miscellaneous visits	8
Scabies visits	0

Milk and Dairies.

Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	12
Milk Samples taken	0

Food and Drugs Inspections.

Meat Inspections	3
Bakehouses	7
Food Inspections	54
Ice Cream Sampling	0
Water Sampling	16

Housing.

Houses inspected and recorded	147
General Surveys	250
Public Health Act Inspections	680
Re-visits	908

Offensive Trades.

Inspections of Knackers' Yards	0
„ „ Blood Boiling premises	0
„ „ Fat refining	4

Sanitary Matters.

Inspection of Verminous Premises	209
Inspections for Rat Infestations	284
Inspections of new drains	126
Smoke Observations	6
Inspections re Refuse Removal and Disposal	555
Factories and Workshops	24
Tents, Vans and Sheds	49
Number of Statutory Notices (Housing Act and Public Health Acts)	152
Number of Statutory Notices (Sect. 17 of the Housing Act, 1936)	0
Number of Nuisances abated on serving Statutory Notice (Public Health Acts)	95

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

for the Year 1950.

*Health Department,
Civic Buildings,
Rothwell.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rothwell Urban District Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to present to you my nineteenth Annual Report for the year 1950, on the work of the Health and Cleansing Departments.

As usual, the Report will be presented under headings of the items of general importance in the work of the office.

HOUSING.

In as much as every person, single or married, child or adult, must in this country be provided with some means of shelter, the question of housing accommodation, and the term "house" is one which is in the mind of every thinking person. To many, unfortunately, it still means something which is unobtainable in the degree or aspect in which they desire it, and the repercussion of this desire is felt to a marked degree in our office.

The rate at which new houses are being built still fails to keep pace with the number of applications, and the rate at which the older houses are deteriorating, and although there is a sort of buffer provided by the fact that we cannot embark on clearance area procedure, it does not prevent complaints, queries and enquiries being made at the office on every working day of the year and, indeed, many times out of normal working hours.

Some of these complaints are concerned with the repair of houses of a satisfactory type, but the majority are inspired by the hope and belief that persistent enquiry and complaint will eventuate in the provision for the enquirer or complainant of a new house. The only satisfaction which comes from this distressing shortage of houses is the fact that the fortunate families who do obtain possession of a Council house, either new or old, do to some extent appreciate their good fortune (for indeed good fortune it is) and are, momentarily at any rate, grateful for what has been done. Unless the house is practically falling down, due to the effects of subsidence or decay, the chances of any new applicant obtaining a house quickly are almost equivalent to the chances of winning the Irish Sweep, although it is only fair to say that allocation of houses by the Housing Department is dealt with through a points scheme, which at least ensures that there is no unfair allocation of the pitifully few houses which are available.

It is an accepted adage that you cannot get a quart into a pint pot, and it is equally true that we cannot, by any stretch of ingenuity, put the whole of the families who, in this district need houses, into the houses which are available. It is difficult to convince unsuccessful applicants that their case is a whit less desperate than the ones who have been successful.

Our particular difficulty is in maintaining those houses which are, to all intents and purposes, beyond the stage of useful life ; but maintain them we do as far as possible, because the evacuation of families from those houses merely adds to the problem instead of relieving it.

During 1950, 9 houses came under the Demolition Section of the Housing Act, and these were added to the end of a list which we already had, to be re-housed out of the 15 per cent. of the total lettings which are allocated to the Department for use in cases of demolition, eviction and re-housing due to pulmonary disease.

The work of inspection to ascertain, record and remedy defects was still carried on, and 827 houses were inspected for all purposes during the year, a total number of 1,985 inspections being made.

The table at the end shows the position with regard to statutory action, and the results which were obtained. The number of legal notices issued, it will be observed, has increased from last year, and this I think is due not to any particular reluctance on the part of the owners to carry out the repairs, but a definite economic difficulty. The cost of repairs continues to increase,

but rents are fixed on a pre-war basis, which means that the smallest repairs on average type working class cottages of 30 or 40 years of age, the gross rent of which varies between 7/6d. and 12/0d., will absorb several weeks net rent. In some cases the work has to be carried out in default because the owners have not the money with which to pay for the repairs, and the money is then recovered over a period of years ; and occasionally the work is done by the Council by agreement with the owners, the money being recovered in the same way. The position is very difficult, and the passage of time, which I had hoped would solve some of these difficulties, seems to make the position worse, and unless there is a considerable alteration I can foresee the time when the Council will have to take over many houses, or otherwise condemn them out of hand, which would put them in the position of having to provide alternative accommodation or evict the tenants on to the street.

The position would, I think, be relieved considerably if owners were allowed to increase their rents proportionately on a certificate from this Department that the houses were maintained in a reasonable state of repair. This problem is not a local one by any means, but I think that the adjustment of the Rent Restriction Act to this effect would provide a solution.

NUISANCES.

During the year 680 Nuisances were found or reported, which, together with a balance of 154 from 1949, gave a total needing attention of 834, of which 705 were abated during the currency of the year, leaving an outstanding balance of 129.

These Nuisances, many of which are of a minor character, are often dealt with by the staff of the Cleansing Department, but in 492 cases informal notices were served, being followed by the service of 121 statutory notices, of which 95 were completed during 1950. A total of 389 Nuisances were actually abated by one means or another. In 2 cases it was necessary to institute court proceedings to secure the required ends.

CARAVANS.

The passage of time has, I think, made the old time description of "Tents, Vans and Sheds" somewhat obsolete, as tents and sheds are very rarely used for habitation, with the exception perhaps of the junior youth organisation who delight to resort, temporarily at least, to more natural forms of living.

Caravans are a problem still, and the presence of opencast mining in the area has brought a new aspect of the same problem, in as much as many of the operatives remove long distances from their homes and, indeed, from lodging accommodation, and have to find some other means of accommodation. On the ground taken over by the Ministry of Fuel and Power, we have very little jurisdiction, and we do not in fact interfere with such encampments, but some operatives, perhaps with a desire to be apart from their daily work, station caravans on farm lands in the vicinity and are then subject to the usual law. We have continued the policy of requiring those to be removed at the end of the statutory free period, and so far have been successful. In one instance (not connected with opencast mining) a family were living in a very undesirable type of caravan, and as they did not comply with repeated informal requests to remove, proceedings were instituted and the occupier of the land and the occupier of the caravan were taken before a local court of summary jurisdiction. At this stage, however, an agreement was reached that the removal would be effected forthwith and the case was discharged without the infliction of any penalties.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The year's work has been performed and maintained with very little difficulty. It has in fact been as easy a year's working as I can remember.

The staff has been constant and fairly sufficient, and the vehicles have been able to perform their functions without any undue difficulty, one vehicle being kept as a spare to cover breakdowns and extra work.

Refuse is still disposed of by controlled tipping, and although a central quarry tip which we have had for many years in Rothwell was filled up, levelled off and sold, other tips were made available. Some low lying land in the Council's central Park was made available for tipping and this, together with some tipping which we did for the local Cricket Club, has provided tips for the majority of the refuse in the area. Indeed, the work which we are doing in the Park gives one a sense of satisfaction, as it will provide extra acreage of park land which will be of advantage and enjoyment for the public of this district for the future.

The tips have been relatively trouble free, although we do get occasional slight rat infestation. There was one exception to this when one of our tips became seriously on fire, probably caused by the fires made by small boys at the weekends, and this reached

such proportions that it was beyond our power to extinguish, even with the help of the Fire Service, and eventually a drag line excavator was hired, and the part of the tip which was on fire was dug out, and in this way the fire was extinguished.

Salvage still continues, the chief items being waste paper and food scraps. The amount of food scraps tends to decrease, but waste paper, after the slump in the early part of the year, when we actually considered ceasing to collect it, has increased in value and in amount, due no doubt to publicity and the intensified efforts on our part to re-claim it at the dustbin end and from the tip.

As I write, the prices are still soaring to heights which were never anticipated, even during the last war, and so it can be assumed that salvage of waste paper at least is to be with us for some time yet.

We do not carry out a separate collection, other than for shops in the area, but each machine carries sacks at the rear, into which the paper which is put out for salvage is put.

The payment of a bonus to the workmen, based on the amount of salvage collected, still continues, and during 1950 a total amount of £37 15s. 8d. was divided amongst all the workmen of the Department.

During the year 7,975 motor loads of refuse were collected and tipped, the majority being to controlled tips, although a small proportion still goes to farmers' land and to the boiler-houses of market gardeners, where the re-claimable cinder is used, and the rest disposed of hygienically. No weights are available as there is no adequate system of weighing in the district.

The cesspool and gully emptying machine, about which I commented last year, is still working, although it will, I hope, be replaced in 1951. Its main work is emptying the 62 cesspools in the area, of which 48 are domestic, and emptied at the cost of the rates, while the balance of 14 are at trade premises where the service is charged for. A proportion of the machine's time is devoted to street gully emptying and there are many incidental calls for dealing with flooded cellars, overflowing sewers and the like.

There is still no positive move in the provision of a new maintenance garage and depot, and so we still continue to garage and maintain our vehicles at the very unsuitable premises at Carlton Bridge. The apprentice mechanic left for war service and

did not come back, and I took the opportunity of introducing an adult mechanic to assist the one we already had, as the amount of vehicles which we maintain continues to grow. The general maintenance of vehicles in all Departments now comes within the scope of our repair shop.

An appendix is included of the weight and value of materials which were salvaged during 1950.

Table Showing Weight and Value of Materials Salvaged

<i>Material.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>					<i>Income.</i>		
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>		<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Baled Paper ..	.. 67	1	1	0	..	532	18	6
Unbaled Paper ..	..	6	0	14	..	4	1	8
Metals (Aluminium) ..	..		1	0			9	6
Metals (Brass) ..	..		1	15			15	4
Textiles ..	.. 1	14	2	5	..	48	14	1
Food Scraps ..	.. 38	4	2	0	..	104	17	0
Total ..						£691	16	1

SEWERS AND DRAINS.

The work of inspecting and testing new drains laid continues, and continues to increase, 699 inspections being made for all purposes during 1950. This work, although time-absorbing, is, I am sure, of the utmost ultimate value, and I have yet to learn of a drain which was inspected and tested by this Department, failing to function because of factors which could have been ascertained at the time of inspection. The trunk sewer from Rothwell to Lemonroyd Pumping Station, which was started in 1950 was completed in 1951, and the trouble which we experienced from inadequate flow and subsequent overflow in the Park has been eliminated. The new sewer of 24" steel pipes extends from the Western end of Rothwell, through the Park lands to Oulton, and is of such a size and construction that on its length there should be no trouble for many years to come. The branch sewer in Methley, about which I commented last year, still continues to be troublesome. The question of re-laying or replacing it is in the hands of the Surveyor, and it seems likely that before long a new sewer will be laid.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

We still continue to eliminate wherever possible privies and ashpits, and this work is extended now to houses which a few years ago we regarded as being subjects for demolition. With the long delay in commencing a clearance area programme, it seems only fair from a hygienic point of view to replace these relics of an unhygienic age. The Council pays half cost in such cases. The advantage is two-fold: it lightens the work on the Cleansing Department, and the hygienic improvements effect not only the householders themselves, but the district generally. During 1950, 105 water closets were provided in lieu of 103 privies, dustbins being provided to each house.

At present in the area there are 6,748 water closets, 75 pail closets, and 219 privies with ashpits attached; the percentage of closets on the water carriage system is 95.7. Some of these conversions are done under notice, but the majority are done by agreement, and in most cases the owners prefer this Department to get out the scheme, arrange contracts and supervise the work, an arrangement which suits us particularly well.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Our work and control under this heading has been altered and reduced by the new Food and Drugs Act, and we now control only retail purveyors of milk and the dairies they use. 37 retail purveyors are at present on the Register and they are subject to examination and scrutiny as opportunity allows. The Council are the Authority for granting Dealers and Supplementary licences under the Food and Drugs Act, 1949, and the following licences were issued for 1950:

Pasteurised Milk	10 Dealers—5 Supplementary.
Sterilised Milk	11 Dealers—2 Supplementary.
Tuberculin Tested Milk ..	8 Dealers—2 Supplementary.
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	2 Dealers—1 Supplementary.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, have introduced a new proviso which appears to prohibit the retailer from distributing milk from a large can on the cart, and filling and re-filling a smaller hand can in the street from that can, to distribute loose milk to his customers. In advising the milk distributors of these Regulations, I drew their attention to this, and suggested that the remedy was to sell bottled milk. Subsequently, interviews were held with all the retailers, and the result is that at the moment, with two exceptions, all the retailers comply with the Regulations.

It seems evident now that milk production and delivery is intended to fall into three sections: (1) the producer, (2) large firms who receive the milk raw and treat it by Pasteurisation or otherwise, and (3) the distributor, who obtains it from the Treatment Plant, and it would appear that this scheme of operations, although contrary to the practice in this semi-rural area for many years, is becoming the accepted one, and to my mind it is to the benefit of the persons for whom the milk is produced, that is, the consumer. The delivery from open cans to basins and jugs left on the pavement has gone for ever, and the alteration is undoubtedly an improvement. It is suprising, however, the number of householders who leave the milk in bottles on the doorstep for many hours in the heat of the sun and then grumble about the rapid deterioration of the milk.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Our duties in this branch of work still continue to be small, in as much as with the exception of a few pigs slaughtered privately, no animals are slaughtered in this area. 4 pigs slaughtered under the self-suppliers scheme were inspected on request. Additionally, 57 visits of inspection were made to other food premises, either stores or shops, and as a result of these inspections, 1,150 lbs. of food was condemned and destroyed. 593 lbs. of this total was tinned food, and the balance was incidental quantities of bacon, ham and pork. The work of examining food premises still continues, and 46 inspections were made for this purpose, additional to those for food examination.

Model byelaws became available under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and while controversy was rife in many parts of the country as to whether the byelaws were sufficient or not, your Council took advantage of the model set, and obtained sanction from the Ministry of Food to make a set based on them for application in this district. Copies were sent to every food handler in the district to which the byelaws applied, but later inspections and examinations as shown above did not reveal any offences under those byelaws.

WATER SUPPLY.

The routine work of checking water samples has continued throughout the year, and a total of 24 samples, 12 chemical and 12 bacteriological, were sent for examination. All the samples were reported as being Class 1 waters and "Satisfactory."

PETROLEUM.

New Regulations and recommendations for the control of the electrical fittings to petroleum pumps were available during the year, and an opportunity was taken before the licences were renewed at the end of February to inspect every installation and make sure that these were in accordance with the new requirements. Several doubtful cases were found and corrected, and licences were thereupon issued. A total of 43 licences were issued to store a total amount of 2,167,775 gallons of petrol, 37 of these being renewals of existing licences, and the balance of 6 being in connection with new installations. Control of new stores is maintained to the usual rigid standard. In all 60 inspections of petroleum storage premises were made.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

Council houses are still inspected when vacant, and the effects of incoming tenants likewise, so that on change of tenancy we do know that the conditions are good at the commencement of the new tenancy, and occupation is not permitted without a certificate from this Department that the premises are clean.

209 inspections were made and 12 premises were treated with D.D.T. or Gammaxene. The disinfection of empty houses on request or after death is still carried out as routine, and the occasional disinfection after removal of infectious disease is done if the circumstances demand it, although routine disinfection is not the custom.

SHOPS.

Shops inspections are made as time and opportunity permit, and in all 209 such inspections were carried out. As I said in my last Report, I am now appointed Shops Act Inspector for all purposes, and the control, therefore, is uniform.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Very little work seems to be required in the area, and routine observations are not taken. Any chimneys about which complaints are made, or in connection with which we have suspicions, are watched, and 6 observations were taken during the year. No legal proceedings were instituted.

I have again represented the Council upon the West Riding of Yorkshire Regional Smoke Abatement Committee, and during the year was honoured by being invited to give a paper on "Smoke,

and the application of Byelaws.” I was again re-elected to serve upon the National Smoke Abatement Society for a further period of two years.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

No alterations have been made in the type or amount of public conveniences in the district, and although it is generally felt that the number we have do not adequately serve the district, the time is not yet appropriate for the erection of new ones.

MORTUARIES.

As I forecast in my last Report, the Council, upon my recommendation, closed the two mortuaries in the outlying parts of the district, at Stourton and Methley, and all bodies are now brought to Rothwell, where the mortuary, although not ideal, is fairly adequate. Improvements have been made by the erection of a porch at the front, to secure privacy during post-mortems, and an extra slab and fluorescent lighting was added at the time the other two mortuaries were closed. No complaints have been received regarding this building.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

The number of inspections under this heading is 284, which is an increase over previous years. I do not think that the rat population in this part of the area has increased, but as the result of publicity, national and local, people are more conscious of their responsibilities and are keener to report any occurrences they notice. In addition to this, routine inspections are made wherever necessary. The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which came into force at the end of March, 1950, provided new powers and imposed new obligations upon the Local Authority.

When poisoning takes place, this is always done under the supervision of an Inspector from this Department, but on one occasion, by some means which were never fully ascertained, fowls gained access to poison which was laid, and the subsequent claim was dealt with by the Insurance Company representing the Council.

TRAINING.

During the year we received into the Department for short periods, Student Health Visitors, who were desirous of gaining practical insight into the work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department, and these young ladies accompanied the Inspectors upon their normal rounds, and, it is hoped, gained insight into the day by day inspection of houses, food premises and similar cases.

STATISTICAL RECORD.

The following record shows in statistical form what the Department has done during the year.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Houses Inspected (Housing Acts)	..	..	147
Houses Inspected (Public Health Acts)	..	..	680
Houses re-inspected (Housing Acts)	..	..	250
Houses re-inspected (Public Health Acts)	..	..	908
Tents, Vans and Sheds	..	..	49
Inspections for Vermin	..	..	209
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	..	..	284
Infectious Diseases investigations :—			
Scarlet Fever	..	..	20
Suspected Diphtheria	..	..	1
Other	..	..	8
Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—			
Food Examination	..	..	57
Food Premises	..	..	46
Dairies	..	..	12
Water Sampling	..	..	16
Factories and Workshops	..	..	25
Smoke Abatement	..	..	6
Petroleum Storage	..	..	60
Mortuaries	..	..	15
Sewers and Drains Inspected	..	..	573
Sewers and Drains tested	..	..	126
Cesspools and Septic Tanks	..	..	12
Public Cleansing Service	..	..	555
Plant Maintenance	..	..	16
Public Conveniences	..	..	266
Sanitary Conversions	..	..	382
Offensive Trades	..	..	4
Bakehouses	..	..	7
Shops Act, 1934	..	..	208
Civil Defence	..	..	1
Total			<u>4,943</u>

The number of inspections made is approximately 6 per working day per Inspector.

WORKS CARRIED OUT.

Drains cleared from obstruction	..	..	321
Sink waste pipes cleared	..	..	—
Defective dustbins renewed	..	..	236
Defective dustbins supplied in default	..	..	8
Roofs repaired	..	..	36
Chimney stacks repaired..	..	..	5
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	..	..	26
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	..	..	24
External walls repaired or repointed	..	..	31
Water closets repaired	..	..	45
Drains repaired or renewed	..	..	32
Water services repaired or renewed	..	..	6
Internal walls repaired or replastered	..	..	30
Ceilings replastered	..	..	23
Windows repaired or renewed	..	..	19
Doors repaired or renewed	..	..	9
Floors repaired or renewed	..	..	13
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	..	..	28
Sinks renewed	..	..	25
Sink waste pipes renewed, refitted or repaired..			13
Set pots renewed	..	..	3
Sanitary conversions	..	..	105
Dry ashpits abolished	..	..	8
Dustbins provided in lieu of ashpits	..	..	17
Privy Middens and Ashpits repaired	..	..	2

STAFF.

The staff position has not altered much. The pupil clerk whom we had in the Department was appointed, after qualification, as Junior Inspector ; so we have now three Inspectors, including myself, and a female clerk.

In concluding this Report I would again reiterate my oft-repeated but none the less sincere thanks to the members of the Council for their support of my actions, to the Medical Officer of Health and the Clerk of the Council for their co-operation and advice, and to the members of my staff for their untiring diligence, assistance and courtesy, not only in the office, but in the District, where the reputation the Department has proudly held for many years for knowledge and assistance is at all times maintained.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. WILSON.



